

## CHAPTER 1.1.

### NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES, AND PROVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

#### Article 1.1.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the OIE Organic Statutes, Member Countries every Member Country of the OIE shall recognise the right of the *Headquarters* to communicate directly with the *Competent Authority* of its *territory or territories*. All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Competent Authority* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

#### Article 1.1.2.

- 1) Member Countries shall make available to other Member Countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of important *diseases of aquatic animals* and their *pathogenic agents* and to assist in achieving better world-wide worldwide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, Member Countries shall comply with the *notification* requirements specified in Articles 1.1.3. and 1.1.4.
- 3) For the purposes of this chapter an 'event' means, a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given disease that is the subject of a notification. An event is specific to a pathogen and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the immediate notification through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, number and geographical distribution of affected aquatic animals and epidemiological units.
- 34) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE disease reporting format.
- 45) The detection of the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in an *aquatic animal* should be reported, even in the absence of clinical signs. Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *pathogenic agents* and clinical *disease* is constantly developing and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of clinical *disease*, Member Countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of point 1 above.
- 56) In addition to notifying findings in accordance with Article 1.1.3. and 1.1.4., Member Countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*. Information shall include possible *quarantine* measures and restrictions ~~on~~ applied to the movement of *aquatic animals*, *aquatic animal products*, *biological products* and other miscellaneous objects which could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be specified.

#### Article 1.1.3.

The *Competent Authority* shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the *Headquarters of the OIE*:

- 1) in accordance with relevant provisions in the *disease-specific chapters*, *notification*, through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) or by fax or e-mail within 24 hours of any of the following events:
  - a) first occurrence of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - b) ~~re-occurrence recurrence~~ of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment* following the final report that declared the *outbreak ended*;
  - c) first occurrence of a new strain of a *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease* in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - d) a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by, the *pathogenic agent* of a *listed disease*, present within a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
  - e) occurrence of a *listed disease* in a new host species.

~~In deciding whether findings justify immediate notification (within 24 hours), Member Countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. (especially Article 5.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for international trade;~~

- 2) weekly reports subsequent to a *notification* under point 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of the event which justified the *notification*. These reports should continue until the *disease* has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable so that six-monthly reporting under point 3 will satisfy the obligation of the Member Country ~~to the OIE; for~~ each event notified, a final report ~~on the event~~ should be submitted;
- 3) six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *listed diseases* and information of epidemiological significance to other Member Countries;
- 4) annual reports concerning any other information of significance to other Member Countries.

#### Article 1.1.4.

Competent Authorities shall, under the responsibility of the Delegate, send to the Headquarters:

- 1) a *notification* through WAHIS or by fax or e-mail ~~email~~, when an *emerging disease* ~~event has occurred been detected~~ in a country, a *zone* or a *compartment*;
- 2) periodic reports subsequent to a *notification* of an *emerging disease*, ~~as described under point 1~~. These should continue ~~until~~:

- a) for the time necessary to have reasonable certainty that:
  - b*i)* the *disease* has been eradicated; or
  - b*ii)* the situation has becomes sufficiently stable; ~~or~~

OR

- b) until sufficient scientific information is available to determine whether it meets the criteria for listing inclusion in the OIE list as described in Chapter 1.2.
- 3) a final report once requirements in point 2) a) or b) are met.

Article 1.1.5.

- 1) The *Competent Authority* of a country in which an *infected zone or compartment was is* located shall inform the *Headquarters* when this country, zone or compartment is becomes free from the *disease*.
- 2) An *infected zone or compartment* for a particular *disease* shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the *infective period* specified in the *Aquatic Code* has elapsed after the last reported case and when full prophylactic and appropriate *aquatic animal health measures* have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the *disease*. These measures will be found in detail in various *disease-specific chapters* of the *Aquatic Code*.
- 3) A Member Country country, zone or compartment may be considered to have regain regained freedom from a specific *disease* when all relevant conditions given in the *Aquatic Code* have been fulfilled.
- 4) The *Competent Authority* of a Member Country which sets up establishes one or several *free zones or free compartments* shall inform the *Headquarters*, giving necessary details, including the criteria on which the free status is based, the requirements for maintaining the status and indicating clearly the location of the zones or compartments on a map of the territory of the Member Country.

Article 1.1.6.

- 1) Although Member Countries are only required to notify *listed diseases*, and *emerging diseases*, they are encouraged to provide inform the OIE with other important *aquatic animal health events information*.
  - 2) The *Headquarters* shall communicate by email e-mail or through the interface of the World Animal Health Information Database System (WAHID WAHIS) to *Competent Authorities* all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.1.2. to 1.1.5. and other relevant information.
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